

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: "OUTLOOK" BANNED - PROBABLY FOR REPORTING
ON BALUCHISTAN SITUATION

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF SIND (GOS) ANNOUNCED JULY 20 THAT PUBLICATION OF "OUTLOOK", A LITERATE, PROVOCATIVE WEEKLY JOURNAL OF OPINION EDITED FROM KARACHI BY I. H. BURNEY, WOULD BE BANNED FOR TWO MONTHS. THE ORDER WAS ISSUED UNDER THE 1960 MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE. IT STATED THAT THE GROUNDS FOR THE BAN WOULD BE COMMUNICATED LATER. THE GOS SIMULTANEOUSLY PROHIBITED FOR TWO MONTHS THE PUBLICATION OF THE KARACHI DAILY "ELAN". EDITOR RAHIM AKHTAR RECEIVED THE ORDER IN JAIL; HE WAS ARRESTED ON JULY 16 UNDER THE DEFENCE OF PAKISTAN RULES. THIS ORDER FOLLOWS THE SILENCING OF THE PRO-JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI KARACHI URDU DAILY "JASARAT" ON JULY 3. THE PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS HAS PUBLICLY PROTESTED THE VARIOUS BAN ORDERS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE THE GOS MAY HAVE ACTED ON ITS OWN IN PROSCRIBING THE VERNACULAR PAPERS, OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE INSPIRATION FOR THE ACTION AGAINST THE NATIONALLY-INFLUENTIAL "OUTLOOK" FOLLOWED NO PARTY LINE, BUT ITS SHARPEST BARBS WERE INEVITABLY AIMED AT THE GOP, PARTICULARLY AT ITS POLICIES IN BALUCHISTAN. RECENT ISSUES HAVE ACCUSED THE BALUCHISTAN PROVINCIAL

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GOVERNMENT OF LETHARGY, CORRUPTION, AND OPPRESSION. THE LAST

ISSUE OF OUTLOOK (JULY 20) WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN STRAW WHICH BROKE
GOP BACK AND PROMPTED BANNING ORDER, CARRIES HIGHLY CRITICAL
LEAD ARTICLE "THE DRIFT IN BALUCHISTAN" PLUS CARTOON DEPICTING
BHUTTO AS STAR IN DRAMATIC FEATURE FILM "60 MILLIONS MOSTLY
FOOLS" PLAYING TO A FULL CAPACITY AUDIENCE. "DRIFT IN
BALUCHISTAN", WHICH WE SHALL TRANSMIT BY AIRGRAM, MENTIONS
"POPULAR FRONT OF ARMED RESISTANCE AGAINST NATIONAL OPPRESSION
AND EXPLOITATION IN BALUCHISTAN" (PFAR) AS "A NEW ELEMENT WHICH
NOW PUSHING ITSELF INTO LIMELIGHT AS A THIRD PARTY IN ANY FUTURE
NEGOTIATIONS." ARTICLE QUOTES MAY BULLETIN OF PFAR LISTING
DEMANDS OF ORGANIZATION RE FREEDOM OF BALUCHISTAN FROM
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL WHICH GO FAR BEYOND THOSE OF JAILED
NAP LEADERS. THE GENERAL VIEW IN KARACHI IS THAT "OUTLOOK" WILL
NOT APPEAR AGAIN FOR MANY MONTHS. EVEN IF THE GOS DOES NOT RENEW
THE BAN ORDER WHEN IT EXPIRES, BURNEY MAY SIMPLY GIVE UP IN
DISGUST.
BRYANT

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